

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 ROME 00558 131810Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03
NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06
TRSE-00 OMB-01 DHA-02 /061 W
-----131835Z 032606 /44

R 131731Z JAN 77
FM AMEMBASSY ROME
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2148
INFO AMCONSUL FLORENCE
AMCONSUL MILAN
AMCONSUL NAPLES

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE ROME 0558

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINS, PINT, IT
SUBJECT: PRESIDENT LEONE CALLS MEETING ON VIOLENCE

1. SUMMARY. PRESIDENT LEONE HAS CONVENED PM ANDREOTTI AND SEVERAL MINISTERS JAN. 13 TO DISCUSS THE PUBLIC ORDER SITUATION. THIS MEETING IS PREPARATORY TO THE COMING PARLIAMENTARY DEBATE ON THE SAME SUBJECT. LEONE'S INITIATIVE MAY BE INTENDED TO ASSIST ANDREOTTI BY DEFUSING THE ISSUE. EVEN THOUGH ATTENTION REMAINS FIXED ON PUBLIC ORDER SITUATION, THE TREND OF VIOLENCE MAY BE SUBSIDING. END SUMMARY.

2. THE RECENT MASS ESCAPE OF 13 INMATES FROM THE JAIL AT TREVISO AND THE DESTRUCTION OF THE INTERIOR OF THE CONGRESS HALL IN ROME-EUR BY BOMB EXPLOSIONS ON THE EVE OF THE MSI CONGRESS HAVE KEPT ATTENTION FOCUSED ON THE DETERIORATION OF PUBLIC ORDER. PUBLICITY IN THE WAKE OF THE PRISON ESCAPE BROUGHT TO LIGHT THE FACT THAT 359 PERSONS ESCAPED FROM ITALIAN PRISONS DURING 1976. NEWSPAPERS HAVE REPORTED ON WHAT APPEARS TO BE LITTLE SHORT OF
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 ROME 00558 131810Z

ANARCHY WITHIN ITALIAN PRISONS.

3. THERE HAVE BEEN CALLS FROM ALL QUARTERS FOR NEW MEASURES AIMED AT IMPROVING THE PRESENT PENAL SYSTEM. SUGGESTIONS RANGE FROM PROVISION FOR MORE RAPID JUSTICE IN ORDER TO DIMINISH THE NUMBER OF UNSENTENCED PRISONERS TO PROPOSALS THAT THE ARMY TAKE OVER THE

JOB OF PATROLLING THE PERIMETERS OF THE PRISONS.
FACED WITH THIS OUTCRY, AND WITH THE JANUARY 24 CHAMBER
OF DEPUTIES DEBATE ON PUBLIC ORDER VERY MUCH IN MIND,
PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC LEONE TOOK THE UNUSUAL
STEP OF CALLING A MEETING ON JANUARY 13 AT THE
QUIRINALE WITH PM ANDREOTTI, INTERIOR MINISTER COSSIGA,
JUSTICE MINISTER BONIFACIO, DEFENSE MINISTER LATTANZIO
AND TREASURY MINISTER STAMMATI.

4. COMMENT: ALTHOUGH IT IS UNUSUAL FOR THE
PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC TO CONVENE AND CHAIR A
MEETING SUCH AS TODAY'S, LEONE HAS CONSISTENTLY
EXHIBITED A SPECIAL CONCERN FOR PUBLIC ORDER. THIS
STEMS IN PART FROM HIS CONSTITUTIONAL ROLE AS
CHIEF OF THE ARMED FORCES AND PRESIDENT OF THE
SUPERIOR COUNCIL OF MAGISTRATES, BUT ALSO REFLECTS
HIS PERSONAL CONCEPTION OF HIS ROLE. (LEONE'S CALL WAS
UNDOUBTEDLY DISCUSSED IN ADVANCE WITH PM ANDREOTTI.)
BY TAKING THE INITIATIVE, LEONE PRESERVED FOR ANDREOTTI
A CERTAIN FREEDOM OF MANEUVER WHICH MAY PROVE PRECIOUS
IN THE DAYS TO COME. AS IN THE CASE OF DC GROUPD
LEADER PICCOLI'S PROPOSAL THAT THE "COLLEGIAL" MEETINGS
DEMANDED BY THE ABSTAINING PARTIES TAKE PLACE IN
PARLIAMENT (SEE ROME 349), AGAIN IN THIS CASE WE
SEE DC DESIRE TO "TAKE THE HEAT OFF" ANDREOTTI
DEMONSTRATED CONCRETELY. INTERESTINGLY ENOUGH, THE
EMBASSY'S STATISTICS ON POLITICALLY-RELATED VIOLENT
ACTS (SEE 76 ROME 19850 AND 20489) SHOW THAT THE
TREND OF VIOLENCE PEAKED IN DECEMBER AND IS DECLINING.
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 ROME 00558 131810Z

THE 62 INSTANCES OF POLITICAL VIOLENCE IN THE FIRST
HALF OF DECEMBER WERE FOLLOWED BY 57 DURING THE
SECOND HALF AND BY ONLY 23 INSTANCES DURING THE
FIRST TWELVE DAYS OF JANUARY. TIME WILL TELL
WHETHER THE INCREASE IN VIOLENCE MERELY PAUSED
FOR THE HOLIDAYS OR WILL CONTINUE. VOLPE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: CABINET, MEETINGS, POLITICAL SITUATION, CIVIL DISORDERS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 13-Jan-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977ROME00558
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770013-0828
Format: TEL
From: ROME
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770155/aaaabvuh.tel
Line Count: 103
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 760f05da-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 08-Mar-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3606079
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PRESIDENT LEONE CALLS MEETING ON VIOLENCE
TAGS: PINS, PINT, IT, (LEONE, GIOVANNI)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/760f05da-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009